wet crops on them whenever the tank on which they are dependent receives an abundant supply of water. The assessment on these lands is however fixed very low in consideration of the precariousness of the water-supply. In the case of garden lands, a liberal policy has been adopted whereby dry lands converted into garden since the original settlement by the digging of wells which are self dependent are still charged with dry rates and the garden assessment has been reduced in other cases so as not to exceed the maximum wet rates. The result has been that in the revision the percentage of increase in the total assessment has been very small and is very low as compared with the increase in the bordering British Indian Taluks as will appear from the following statement:—

Taluk			Percentage of increase or decrease
Davangere Ranibennur	...	...	+ 22 + 40·1
Sorab Hangal Sirsi	...	...	+ 14 + 46·1 + 43·50
Sagar Siddapur	...	...	— 5 + 42·4
Shikarpur Late Kod	...	...	+ 8·44 + 39

The rates have in consequence been received very favourably and no complaints of any excessive enhancement have been received from anywhere.

SUBJECT No. 123.

Numbering of unassessed Government waste into minimum cultivable areas.

Mr. Mudvirasetti, Closepet Sub-Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The present system of dividing Government waste land into survey numbers of large extent causes great delay in obtaining such lands for cultivation, especially in tracts where assessed survey numbers fit for cultivation are not available. The division of these into survey numbers of small extent will not only be encouraging to cultivators but also advantageous to Government.

Reply of Government.—The proposed sub-division of all unassessed Government waste will be extremely costly and will not serve any useful purpose. As a rule when these lands are otherwise suitable for cultivation and they have not been reserved for special purposes such as gomal, forest, etc., there should ordinarily be no difficulty in getting them sub-divided and obtaining them as soon as their grant is sanctioned. The present shekdars have been trained to attend to such sub-divisions.

SUBJECT No. 124.

Admissibility in evidence of the preliminary survey records.

Mr. H. Rama Rao, Tumkur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—When the subject of granting copies of survey records connected with the holdings of raiyats was moved last year, Government observed that the request could not be granted as the records were only preliminary and not final. Such records may therefore be treated as inadmissible in evidence in courts.

They are however often necessary to private persons for information regarding the existence of cart-tracks, the source of water-supply, etc., and if they are treated as confidential documents they will be deprived of this useful source of information.

The majority of the members stated that copies might be granted with a certificate that the accuracy of the record could not be guaranteed as, if the parties did not obtain the copies, they got the originals summoned by the civil courts and had them filed as exhibits.

Reply of Government.—The rules will be revised so as to authorize the grant of copies of these documents. It is to be understood that this does not imply any guarantee of the correctness of the statements or facts recorded in them.

SUBJECT No. 125.

Abolition of the Survey Department.

Mr. D. S. Hanumanta Rao, Devanhalli Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The abolition of the Survey Department may well be effected in connection with the present retrenchment scheme, the savings of nearly two lakhs of rupees thereby made being better utilised for other purposes in the interests of the raiyats. The Shekdars, Taluk Mojanidars and District Surveyors may be deputed to attend to the *phod* work and other survey operations.

The assessment now fixed should be made permanent and a permanent settlement introduced. All the survey records may then be given to the Deputy Commissioners and they will be able to get any necessary changes made in them with the aid of District Surveyors and Mojanidars.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

FOREST.

(Nos. 126 to 139.)

SUBJECT No. 126.

Sandal trees on occupied lands.

Messrs. Mudvira Setti, Closepet Sub-Taluk; Seenappa, Bagepalli Taluk; Vine Rangaswamiengar, Seringapatam Taluk; Linge Gowda, Madappa, Mysore Taluk; Davood Sab, Timma Setti, Mudgere Taluk; K. Rangappa, Holalkere Taluk; Mudlagiri Rao, Jagalur Taluk; Venkata Subbaiya, Surya Narayana Setty, Arkalgud Taluk; Padmarajaiya, Channarayapatna Taluk; A. Venkatachar, Hole-Narsipur Taluk, and Kesaviengar, Belur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The grant to occupants of half the profits arising from the sale of sandal trees in private holdings will be profitable to Government and save the owners from the fear of malicious prosecutions.

The right of the occupant to sandal trees on his holding may be recognized as in British Indian territory.

Sandal trees in occupied lands will thrive well if increased attention is paid to them by the occupant. At present the raiyats wilfully neglect their growth as they are the monopoly of Government. If a share of the profit derived from sandal trees be given to the occupants, they will be encouraged to pay more attention to their growth with the result that the revenue under this head will gradually increase.

A fourth of the realizations from the sale of sandal trees may be ordered to be given to occupants as it will